

the path of meditation that attains the irrevocable cessation of the eighth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realms. This path of release does not strive to attain the result of foe-destroyer, since it merely rests in the state of the attainment of the irrevocable cessation of the eighth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realms.

Please note that there are non-returners who have not yet irrevocably eliminated any of the nine types of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, because in order to attain the result of non-returned, it is sufficient to *temporarily* eliminate the nine types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm with mundane uninterrupted paths of the preparatory stage of the first concentration.

2) ***Special abiders in the result of non-returned***

Special abiders in the result of non-returned (*phyir mi 'ong 'bras gnas khyad par can*) are non-returned who abide on an uninterrupted path that mainly strives to attain the result of foe-destroyer. In general, any uninterrupted path in the continuum of a non-returned is an uninterrupted path that mainly strives to attain the result of foe-destroyer.

Examples of special abiders in the result of non-returned are non-returned who abide on the eighth supramundane uninterrupted path that irrevocably eliminates the eighth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realms. Other examples of special abiders in the result of non-returned are non-returned who abide on the ninth supramundane uninterrupted path, i.e. the *Vajra-like Stabilization*, that eliminates the ninth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realms.

Please note that special abiders in the result of non-returned and *approachers to the result of foe-destroyer* are equivalent.

1) ***Non-returned who are Gradual-Attainers***

Non-returned who are Gradual-Attainers (*'bras bu rim gyis pa'i phyir mi 'ong*) and non-returned who were preceded by the achievement of stream-enterer (*rgyun zhugs kyi rtogs pa sngon song gi phyir mi 'ong*) are equivalent.

Non-returned who are Gradual-Attainers are Hinayana Aryas who first became stream-enterers when they attained the cessation of the three fetters (intellectually acquired afflictive obstructions). Then they became once-returned when they attained the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, without also achieving the irrevocable cessation the sixth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm at that time. Thereafter, they became non-returned when they attained the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, without also achieving the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm at that time. Therefore, Gradual-Attainers newly attained the result of non-returned the moment they achieved the temporary or irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm. And they remain non-returned for as long as they do not become foe-destroyers upon achieving the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of supramundane innate affliction of the Desire, Form and Formless Realms.

2) ***Non-returned who previously separated from attachment***

The following four non-returned are equivalent: non-returned who previously separated from attachment (*chags bral sngon song gi phyir mi 'ong*) non-returned who are Leapers (*'bras bu thod rgal ba'i phyir mi 'ong*) non-returned who attained the meditative stabilization of the [first] concentration prior to reaching the path of seeing (*mthong lam gyi snga rol tu bsam gtan gyi dngos gzhi'i snyoms 'jug thob pa'i phyir mi 'ong*), and non-returned who eliminated the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing (*mthong lam gyi snga rol tu 'jig rten pa'i sgom spangs su gyur pa'i 'dod nyon dgu pa spangs pa'i phyir mi 'ong*).

Hence, *non-returned who previously separated from attachment* are non-returned who temporarily eliminated the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing. Then they entered the uninterrupted path of the path of seeing and, as *approachers to the*

result of non-returns who previously separated from attachment, eliminated the three fetters (intellectually acquired afflictive obstructions). The moment they attained the cessation of the three fetters, they became *non-returns who previously separated from attachment*.

These non-returns do not attain the result of stream-enterer, because stream-enterers are characterized as Hinayana Aryas who did not eliminate the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing. Similarly they do not attain the result of once-returned, since once-returneds are characterized as Hinayana Aryas who did not eliminate the ninth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing.

Non-returns who previously separated from attachment remain non-returns for as long as they do not become foe-destroyers upon achieving the irrevocable cessation of the ninth type of supramundane innate affliction of the Desire, Form, and Formless Realms.

Please note that as Leapers, *non-returns who previously separated from attachment* are Gradual-Eliminators and thus eliminate the different types of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm and their supramundane counterparts sequentially.

From the perspective of the manner of relying upon Arya Dharma, abiders in the result of non-returned can also be classified into:

- 1) Non-returns who underwent rebirth in the Desire Realm
- 2) Non-returns who did not undergo rebirth in the Desire Realm

1) Non-returns who underwent rebirth in the Desire Realm

Non-returns who underwent rebirth in the Desire Realm (*'dod par tshe yongs su gyur pa'i phyir mi 'ong*) are non-returns of the Desire Realm who, after newly attaining an Arya path (i.e. the path of seeing) as Desire Realm beings, took at least one more rebirth in the Desire Realm, during which they attained the result of non-returned. During the same life in which they attained the result of non-returned, they will also attain the result of foe-destroyer. Hence, *non-returns who underwent rebirth in the Desire Realm* did not take rebirth in the Form or Formless Realms after they newly reached the path of seeing or attained the result of foe-destroyer in that same life. Instead, they underwent, i.e. took at least one more rebirth in the Desire Realm.

Examples of *non-returns who underwent rebirth in the Desire Realm* are non-returns who previously, during the life in which they newly attained the path of seeing, were *stream-enterers born into samsaric existence seven times*. Other examples are non-returns who previously (during the life in which they newly attained the path of seeing) were *stream-enterers born from type to type*.

Non-returns who underwent rebirth in the Desire Realm can be either Leapers who temporarily eliminated the sixth type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing, or Gradual-Attainers.

2) Non-returns who did not undergo rebirth in the Desire Realm

Non-returns who did not undergo rebirth in the Desire Realm (*'dod par tshe yongs su ma gyur pa'i phyir mi 'ong*) are non-returns of the Desire Realm who after they newly attained an Arya path (i.e. the path of seeing) in this life, did not undergo, i.e. take another rebirth in the Desire Realm. Instead, they also achieved the result of non-returned in this life. Thereafter, they will either attain the result of foe-destroyer (during this lifetime) or take birth in the Form or Formless Realm.

Non-returns who did not undergo rebirth in the Desire Realm can be Leapers who temporarily eliminated the *sixth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing, Leapers who temporarily eliminated the *ninth* type of mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm prior to reaching the path of seeing, or Gradual-Attainers.

Non-returns who did not undergo rebirth in the Desire Realm can be classified into four types:

- i. Non-returns who will proceed to the Form Realm
- ii. Non-returns who will proceed to the Formless Realm
- iii. Non-returns who will pacify [during] the Dharma of seeing (i.e. non-returns who will attain self-liberation during the very life in which they newly attained the path of seeing)
- iv. Non-returns who will actualize a body

